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UNCLAS VIENNA 001595

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DEPT FOR IO/T FOSTRANDER, EB/TRA JBYERLY, AND EUR/AGS  
MONTREAL FOR USICAO

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SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN VIEWS ON ICAO LEADERSHIP AND REFORM ISSUES

REF: STATE 83002

1. On May 13, Econ Unit Chief delivered reftel talking points and non-paper to Alois Kraut, Head of the Transport and Telecommunication Unit in the MFA. Kraut confirmed that there were on-going discussions within the EU regarding possible reforms for ICAO. Kraut said the EU was discussing the following reform proposals: limiting the Council President to two terms; creating more balance in the portfolios of the Council President and the Secretary General; and affording the Secretary General more flexibility and accountability over the ICAO budget.

2. Kraut said neither the GoA nor the EU had discussed a possible candidacy by Dr. Cherif for a second term as Secretary General. According to Kraut, reforms of the ICAO

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and better definition of the roles of the Council President and Secretary General were more important at the moment than discussions about candidates for either position. Nevertheless, Kraut said the EU was considering recommending moving up the Council Presidency election to late 2005. Kraut admitted this might be sensitive given Mr. Kotaite's announced departure of August 2006, but the EU believed it would be beneficial to decouple the two elections. Kraut added the EU wanted both elections to be more transparent, with candidates explaining positions and programs to member states.  
Brown